

Constraints on Scalar Dark Matter from Direct Experimental Searches

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Abstract

The standard model (SM) plus a real gauge-singlet scalar field dubbed darkon (SM+D) is the simplest model possessing a weakly interacting massive particle (WIMP) dark-matter candidate. The upper limits for the WIMP-nucleon elastic cross-section as a function of WIMP mass from the recent XENON10 and CDMS II experiments rule out darkon mass ranges from 10 to (50, 70, 75) GeV for Higgs-boson masses of (120, 200, 350) GeV, respectively. This may exclude the possibility of the darkon providing an explanation for the gamma-ray excess observed in the EGRET data. We show that by extending the SM+D to a two-Higgs-doublet model plus a darkon the experimental constraints on the WIMP-nucleon interactions can be circumvented due to suppression occurring at some values of the product $\tan\alpha \tan\beta$, with α being the neutral-Higgs mixing angle and $\tan\beta$ the ratio of vacuum expectation values of the Higgs doublets. We also comment on the implication of the darkon model for Higgs searches at the LHC.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The standard big-bang cosmology describes various astronomical and cosmological observations very well. To explain observational data, it requires two exotic unknown species beyond the standard model (SM) of particle physics, namely the dark matter and the dark energy, which in the energy budget of the Universe make up roughly 20% and 75% of the total energy density, respectively. Although the evidence for dark matter has been established for many decades, the identity of its basic constituents has so far remained elusive.

One of the popular candidates for dark matter (DM) is the weakly interacting massive particle (WIMP). Needless to say, the detection of a WIMP candidate is crucial not only for understanding the nature of DM, but also for distinguishing models of new physics beyond the SM. A variety of experiments have been and are being carried out to detect DM directly by looking for the recoil energy of nuclei caused by the elastic scattering of a WIMP off a nucleon. Although there is some evidence for WIMPs from indirect DM searches [1], there is as yet no confirmed signal for them from direct searches. Stringent bounds on the WIMP-nucleon elastic cross-section have been obtained from the null results of direct DM searches. The strictest limits to date on the cross section as a function of WIMP mass have been set by the recent XENON10 [2] and CDMS II [3] experiments. They are shown in Fig. 1, along with the expected sensitivities of a few future experiments. These upper bounds provide important restrictions on WIMP models.

Among the many possible WIMPs, the lightest supersymmetric particle is the most studied candidate. Although this possibility has many attractive features, no direct experimental evidence for it has yet been discovered. It is therefore important to study and search for other possible WIMPs which can explain the DM relic density. The simplest model which has a WIMP candidate is the SM+D, which extends the SM by the addition of a real gauge-singlet scalar field D . This singlet field, which we will call darkon, can play the role of dark matter. The darkon as DM was first considered by Silveira and Zee [4] and further explored later by other groups [5–9].

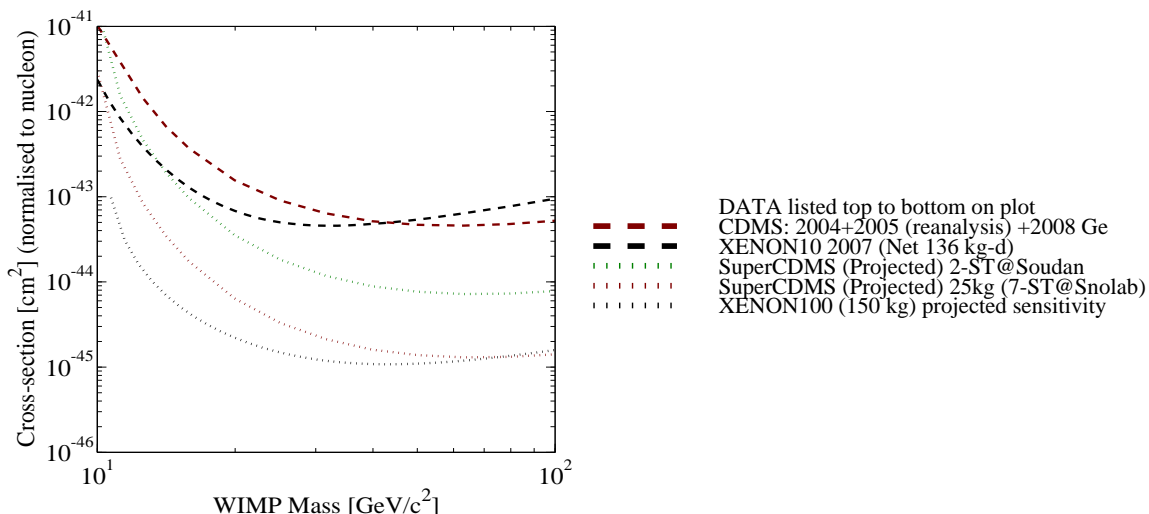


FIG. 1: Current and projected upper limits for the spin-independent WIMP-nucleon elastic scattering cross-section as functions of WIMP mass. Plot courtesy of Ref. [11].

In this paper we study the constraints on the SM+D and its two-Higgs-doublet extension (THDM+D) from the recent XENON10 and CDMSII experiments which set upper limits for the WIMP-nucleon spin-independent elastic scattering cross-section [2, 3]. In the SM+D, we find that a darkon having a mass in the ranges of 10 GeV to (50, 70, 75) GeV for Higgs masses of (120, 200, 350) GeV, respectively, is ruled out by the experimental bounds. This confirms some of the results obtained in Refs. [8, 9]. Now, a WIMP candidate with a mass in the range from 50 to 70 GeV can well explain the gamma-ray excess observed in the EGRET data [10]. The darkon mass range ruled out by XENON10 and CDMSII would imply that the darkon model is not likely to offer an explanation for the EGRET excess. It is then interesting to see if there are possible avenues to evade the experimental restrictions on the WIMP-nucleon interactions and keep this darkon mass range viable. To this end, we consider two-Higgs-doublet models with a darkon and find that in the type-II THDM plus a darkon (THDMII+D) it is indeed possible for a darkon with a mass within the range of interest to satisfy the experimental requirements. This can happen because of the suppression of the darkon-nucleon interaction at certain values of the parameters of the model. We also find that a darkon having mass within this range can lead to considerable enhancement of Higgs decay widths through substantial invisible decays into darkon pairs. This could cause the Higgs branching fractions to SM particles to diminish and consequently affect Higgs signatures at colliders significantly.

Before starting our analysis of the models, we would like to summarize the relic-density constraints that any WIMP candidate has to satisfy. For a given interaction of the WIMP with SM particles, its annihilation rate into the latter and its relic density Ω_D can be calculated and are related to each other by the thermal dynamics of the Universe within the standard big-bang cosmology [12]. To a good approximation,

$$\Omega_D h^2 \simeq \frac{1.07 \times 10^9 x_f}{\sqrt{g_*} m_{\text{Pl}} \langle \sigma_{\text{ann}} v_{\text{rel}} \rangle \text{ GeV}} , \quad x_f \simeq \ln \frac{0.038 m_{\text{Pl}} m_D \langle \sigma_{\text{ann}} v_{\text{rel}} \rangle}{\sqrt{g_*} x_f} , \quad (1)$$

where h is the Hubble constant in units of 100 km/(s·Mpc), $m_{\text{Pl}} = 1.22 \times 10^{19}$ GeV is the Planck mass, m_D is the WIMP mass, $x_f = m_D/T_f$ with T_f being the freezing temperature, g_* is the number of relativistic degrees of freedom with masses less than T_f , and $\langle \sigma_{\text{ann}} v_{\text{rel}} \rangle$ is the thermal average of the product of the annihilation cross-section of a pair of WIMPs into SM particles and the relative speed of the WIMP pair in their center-of-mass frame.

The current Particle Data Group value for the DM density is $\Omega_D h^2 = 0.105 \pm 0.008$ [13]. Using this number and Eq. (1), one can restrict the ranges of x_f and $\langle \sigma_{\text{ann}} v_{\text{rel}} \rangle$ as functions of WIMP mass m_D without knowing the explicit form of the SM-WIMP interaction. In Fig. 2 we show the values allowed by the 90% C.L. range $0.092 \leq \Omega_D h^2 \leq 0.118$.

II. STANDARD MODEL WITH DARKON

A. Brief description of the model

Since the darkon field D in the SM+D must interact weakly with the SM matter fields to play the role of dark matter, the simplest way to introduce the darkon is to make it a real gauge singlet with

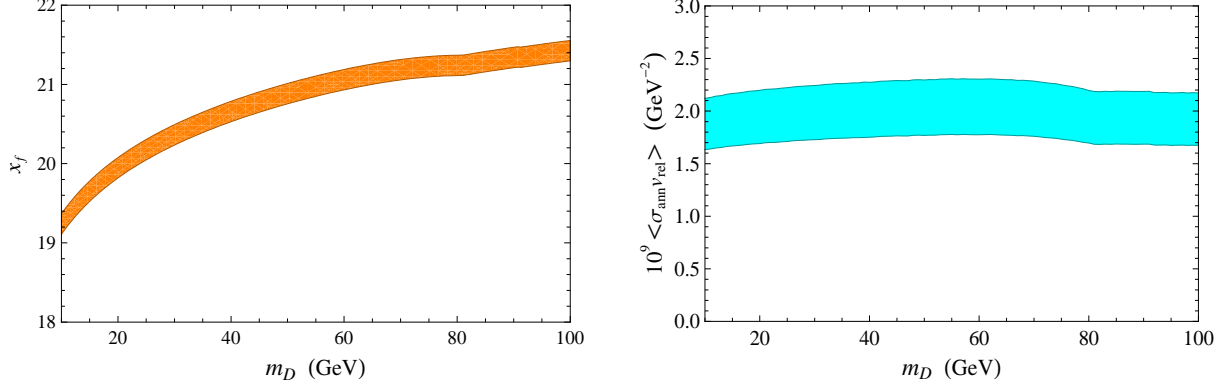


FIG. 2: Ranges of x_f and $\langle\sigma_{\text{ann}}v_{\text{rel}}\rangle$ as functions of WIMP mass m_D corresponding to the 90% C.L. range $0.092 \leq \Omega_D h^2 \leq 0.118$.

a discrete Z_2 symmetry so that it does not have SM gauge interactions and can only be created or annihilated in pairs. Requiring that the darkon interactions be renormalizable implies that D can only couple to the Higgs doublet field H . Beside the kinetic energy term $\frac{1}{2}\partial^\mu D \partial_\mu D$, the general form of the other terms in the darkon Lagrangian is [4, 5]

$$\mathcal{L}_D = -\frac{\lambda_D}{4} D^4 - \frac{m_0^2}{2} D^2 - \lambda D^2 H^\dagger H, \quad (2)$$

where λ_D , m_0 , and λ are free parameters. Clearly, \mathcal{L}_D is invariant under the Z_2 transformation $D \rightarrow -D$, the SM fields being unchanged. The parameters in the potential should be chosen such that D does not develop a vacuum expectation value (vev) and the Z_2 symmetry is not broken, which will ensure that the darkon does not mix with the Higgs field, avoiding possible fast decays into other SM particles.

The Lagrangian in Eq. (2) can be rewritten to describe the interaction of the physical Higgs boson h with the darkon as

$$\mathcal{L}_D = -\frac{\lambda_D}{4} D^4 - \frac{(m_0^2 + \lambda v^2)}{2} D^2 - \frac{\lambda}{2} D^2 h^2 - \lambda v D^2 h, \quad (3)$$

where $v = 246$ GeV is the vev of H , the second term contains the darkon mass $m_D = (m_0^2 + \lambda v^2)^{1/2}$, and the last term, $-\lambda v D^2 h$, plays an important role in determining the relic density of the DM. At leading order, the relic density of the darkon results from the annihilation of a darkon pair into SM particles through Higgs exchange [4, 5], namely $DD \rightarrow h^* \rightarrow X$, where X indicates SM particles.

Since the darkon is cold DM, its speed is nonrelativistic, and so a darkon pair has an invariant mass $\sqrt{s} \simeq 2m_D$. With the SM+D Lagrangian determined, the h -mediated annihilation cross-section of a darkon pair into SM particles is then given by [5]

$$\sigma_{\text{ann}} v_{\text{rel}} = \frac{8\lambda^2 v^2}{(4m_D^2 - m_h^2)^2 + \Gamma_h^2 m_h^2} \frac{\sum_i \Gamma(\tilde{h} \rightarrow X_i)}{2m_D}, \quad (4)$$

where $v_{\text{rel}} = 2|\mathbf{p}_D^{\text{cm}}|/m_D$ is the relative speed of the DD pair in their center-of-mass (cm) frame, \tilde{h} is a virtual Higgs boson having the same couplings to other states as the physical h of mass m_h ,

but with an invariant mass $\sqrt{s} = 2m_D$, and $\tilde{h} \rightarrow X_i$ is any possible decay mode of \tilde{h} . For a given model, $\Sigma_i \Gamma(\tilde{h} \rightarrow X_i)$ is obtained by calculating the h width and then setting m_h equal to $2m_D$.

The darkon-Higgs coupling λ for a given value of m_D can now be inferred from the range of $\langle \sigma_{\text{ann}} v_{\text{rel}} \rangle$ values allowed by the $\Omega_D h^2$ constraint, as in Fig. 2, once m_h is specified. We show in Fig. 3 the allowed ranges of λ corresponding to $10 \text{ GeV} \leq m_D \leq 100 \text{ GeV}$ for representative values of the Higgs-boson mass. We note that it is possible for λ to become larger than 1 when m_D decreases, which would upset the applicability of perturbative calculation. Consequently, we display only the $\lambda < 1$ regions in this figure.

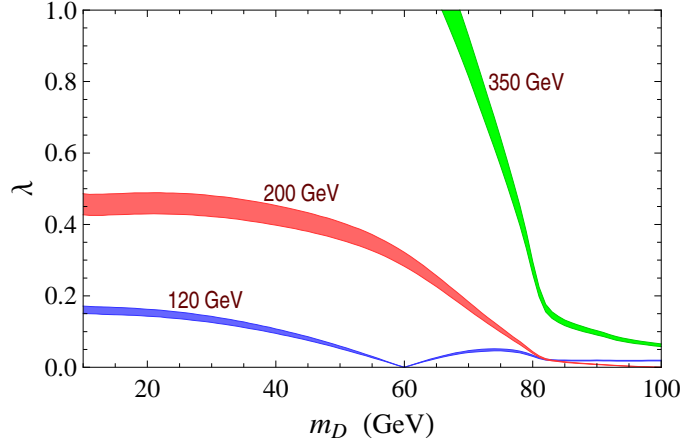


FIG. 3: Darkon-Higgs coupling λ in the SM+D as a function of darkon mass m_D for Higgs mass values $m_h = 120, 200, 350 \text{ GeV}$.

B. Effective Higgs-nucleon coupling

The detection of dark matter on the Earth is through the recoil of nuclei when a darkon hits a nucleon target. This interaction occurs via the exchange of a Higgs boson between the darkon and the nucleon N in the t -channel process $DN \rightarrow DN$. Its cross-section then depends on not only λ , but also the Higgs-nucleon coupling. Since the energy transferred in this elastic scattering is very small, of order 100 keV, one can employ a chiral-Lagrangian approach to obtain the effective Higgs-nucleon coupling. The Higgs-nucleon coupling has been studied previously [14, 15], and here we reorganize the results for convenience in evaluating possible cancelation among different contributions.

The Higgs-nucleon coupling depends on the underlying Yukawa interactions of the Higgs boson with the quark degrees of freedom. The couplings of a Higgs boson \mathcal{H} to quarks can be generically written as

$$\mathcal{L}_{qq\mathcal{H}} = - \sum_q \frac{k_q}{v} m_q \bar{q} q \mathcal{H} , \quad (5)$$

where the sum runs over the six quark flavors, $q = u, d, s, c, b, t$. In the SM $k_q = 1$ for all q 's,

whereas beyond the SM the k_q 's may have other values. Specifically, $k_u = k_c = k_t$ and $k_d = k_s = k_b$, the two sets being generally different, in the THDM II+D which we will consider later.

Now, the effective coupling of \mathcal{H} to a nucleon $N = p$ or n has the form

$$\mathcal{L}_{NN\mathcal{H}} = -g_{NN\mathcal{H}} \bar{N} N \mathcal{H} , \quad (6)$$

where $g_{NN\mathcal{H}}$ is the Higgs-nucleon coupling constant. In the SM+D and THDM II+D, one then needs to evaluate the matrix element

$$g_{NN\mathcal{H}} \bar{N} N = \langle N | \frac{k_u}{v} (m_u \bar{u} u + m_c \bar{c} c + m_t \bar{t} t) + \frac{k_d}{v} (m_d \bar{d} d + m_s \bar{s} s + m_b \bar{b} b) | N \rangle . \quad (7)$$

We outline the derivation in the Appendix, and the result is

$$g_{NN\mathcal{H}} = (k_u - k_d) \frac{\sigma_{\pi N}}{2v} + k_d \frac{m_N}{v} + \frac{4k_u - 25k_d}{27} \frac{m_B}{v} , \quad (8)$$

where $\sigma_{\pi N}$ is the so-called pion-nucleon sigma term, m_N the nucleon mass, and m_B the baryon mass in the chiral limit. As explained in the Appendix, m_B is related to $\sigma_{\pi N}$ by Eq. (A3) and numerically we adopt $\sigma_{\pi N} = 45$ MeV. It follows that

$$g_{NN\mathcal{H}} \simeq (1.217 k_d + 0.493 k_u) \times 10^{-3} . \quad (9)$$

Hence $g_{NN\mathcal{H}}$ can be vanishingly small if $k_u \simeq -2.47 k_d$.

C. Darkon-nucleon elastic cross-section in SM+D

The amplitude for the elastic scattering $DN \rightarrow DN$ mediated by \mathcal{H} is given by

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{el}} \simeq \frac{2\lambda g_{NN\mathcal{H}} v}{m_{\mathcal{H}}^2} \bar{N} N \quad (10)$$

for the squared transfer momentum $t \ll m_{\mathcal{H}}^2$. This leads to the cross section

$$\sigma_{\text{el}} \simeq \frac{\lambda^2 g_{NN\mathcal{H}}^2 v^2 m_N^2}{\pi (m_D + m_N)^2 m_{\mathcal{H}}^4} , \quad (11)$$

the approximation $(p_D + p_N)^2 \simeq (m_D + m_N)^2$ having been used. In the SM+D, the Higgs-nucleon coupling g_{NNh}^{SM} is obtained from Eq. (9) by setting $k_u = k_d = 1$. Thus

$$g_{NNh}^{\text{SM}} \simeq 1.71 \times 10^{-3} , \quad (12)$$

which is comparable to the values found in the literature [5, 15].

Since λ as a function of m_D is constrained by the relic density, so is σ_{el} . In Fig. 4 we plot σ_{el} versus m_D in the SM+D for $\lambda < 1$ and representative values of the Higgs-boson mass. We remark that the dip of the $m_h = 120$ GeV curve at $m_D = 60$ GeV in this figure corresponds to the dip in Fig. 3 and the minimum of the denominator in Eq. (4) at $m_h = 2m_D$. When comparing

predicted elastic cross-sections with experimental limits, we assume in this paper that the local density of dark matter is fully accounted for by the darkon, and so no scaling is needed for the cross sections. In Fig. 4, we also plot 90% C.L. upper limits on the WIMP-nucleon spin-independent elastic cross-section set by the XENON10 and CDMSII experiments [2, 3]. One can easily see that the darkon mass ranges $10 \text{ GeV} \leq m_D \leq (50, 70, 75) \text{ GeV}$ are ruled out for Higgs masses of $(120, 200, 350) \text{ GeV}$, respectively.

The analysis above suggests that the experimental constraints can be evaded if the Higgs-nucleon coupling gets sufficiently small due to (at least) partial cancelation among various contributions to it from the underlying Yukawa couplings. As we will see in the next section, this possibility can be realized in the two-Higgs-doublet extension of the SM+D.

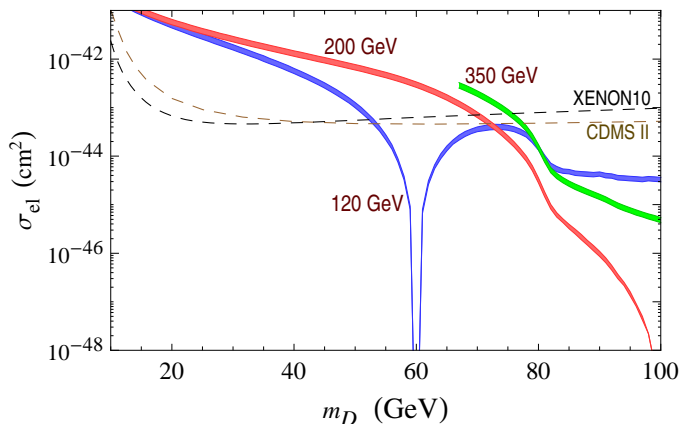


FIG. 4: Darkon-nucleon elastic cross-section σ_{el} in the SM+D as a function of darkon mass m_D for Higgs mass values $m_h = 120, 200, 350 \text{ GeV}$, compared to 90% C.L. upper limits from XENON10 (black dashed-curve) and CDMS II (gray [brown] dashed-curve).

III. TWO-HIGGS-DOUBLET MODEL WITH DARKON

A. Brief description of the model

As the name implies, the THDM has two Higgs doublets $H_{1,2}$. Depending on how they couple to the fermions in the SM, there are different types of the THDM [16]. In the THDMI, only one of the Higgs doublets gives masses to all the fermions. In the THDMII, the up-type fermions get mass from only one of the Higgs doublets, say H_2 , and the down-type fermions from the other doublet. In the THDMIII, both H_1 and H_2 give masses to all the fermions.

In the THDMI, since only one Higgs doublet generates the fermion masses, the Higgs couplings to fermions are those in the SM, up to an overall scaling factor. Therefore, the Higgs couplings in the THDMI+D are similar to those in the SM+D studied in the previous section and thus cannot help overcome the difficulties encountered. In the THDMIII, there are flavor-changing Higgs-quark couplings which introduce too many parameters for the model to have predictive power. For these reasons, we will consider only the THDMII with the darkon field added (THDMII+D).

The Yukawa interactions of the Higgs fields in the THDM II are described by [16]

$$\mathcal{L}_Y = -\bar{Q}_L \lambda_2^u \tilde{H}_2 \mathcal{U}_R - \bar{Q}_L \lambda_1^d H_1 \mathcal{D}_R - \bar{L}_L \lambda_1^l H_1 E_R + \text{H.c.} , \quad (13)$$

where Q , \mathcal{U} , \mathcal{D} , L , and E represent the usual quark and lepton fields and $\lambda^{u,d,l}$ contain the Yukawa couplings. To effect the separate couplings of H_1 and H_2 to the down and up sectors, respectively, it is necessary to introduce a discrete Z'_2 symmetry, under which $H_2 \rightarrow -H_2$ and $\mathcal{U}_R \rightarrow -\mathcal{U}_R$, the other fields being unaltered. In terms of their components, the Higgs doublets are

$$H_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{2} h_k^+ \\ v_k + h_k + i I_k \end{pmatrix} , \quad (14)$$

where $k = 1, 2$ and v_k is the vev of H_k . Here h_k^+ and I_k are related to the physical Higgs bosons H^+ and A and the would-be Goldstone bosons w and z by

$$\begin{pmatrix} h_1^+ \\ h_2^+ \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \beta & -\sin \beta \\ \sin \beta & \cos \beta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} w^+ \\ H^+ \end{pmatrix} , \quad \begin{pmatrix} I_1 \\ I_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \beta & -\sin \beta \\ \sin \beta & \cos \beta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} z \\ A \end{pmatrix} , \quad (15)$$

with $\tan \beta = v_2/v_1$, whereas h_k can be expressed in terms of mass eigenstates H and h as

$$\begin{pmatrix} h_1 \\ h_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \alpha & -\sin \alpha \\ \sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} H \\ h \end{pmatrix} . \quad (16)$$

Hence the angle α indicates the mixing of the two CP -even Higgs bosons.

In analogy to Eq. (2) in the SM+D case, in the THDM II+D we have the renormalizable darkon Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_D = -\frac{\lambda_D}{4} D^4 - \frac{m_0^2}{2} D^2 - (\lambda_1 H_1^\dagger H_1 + \lambda_2 H_2^\dagger H_2) D^2 . \quad (17)$$

As in the SM+D, here we have again imposed the Z_2 symmetry under which $D \rightarrow -D$ with all the other fields unchanged, and for the same reasons we need to keep it unbroken. This Lagrangian also respects the Z'_2 symmetry mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

After electroweak symmetry breaking, \mathcal{L}_D contains the D mass and the $DD(h, H)$ terms given by

$$\begin{aligned} m_D^2 &= m_0^2 + (\lambda_1 \cos^2 \beta + \lambda_2 \sin^2 \beta) v^2 , \\ \mathcal{L}_{DDh} &= -(-\lambda_1 \sin \alpha \cos \beta + \lambda_2 \cos \alpha \sin \beta) v D^2 h = -\lambda_h v D^2 h , \\ \mathcal{L}_{DDH} &= -(\lambda_1 \cos \alpha \cos \beta + \lambda_2 \sin \alpha \sin \beta) v D^2 H = -\lambda_H v D^2 H , \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

with $v^2 = v_1^2 + v_2^2$, but \mathcal{L}_D has no DDA term. Since m_0 , λ_1 , and λ_2 are all free parameters, we can treat the mass m_D and the effective couplings $\lambda_{h,H}$ as new free parameters in this model.

From Eq. (13), the Yukawa interactions of h and H are described by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{ff\mathcal{H}} &= -\bar{\mathcal{U}}_L M^u \mathcal{U}_R \left(\frac{\cos \alpha}{\sin \beta} \frac{h}{v} + \frac{\sin \alpha}{\sin \beta} \frac{H}{v} \right) - \bar{\mathcal{D}}_L M^d \mathcal{D}_R \left(-\frac{\sin \alpha}{\cos \beta} \frac{h}{v} + \frac{\cos \alpha}{\cos \beta} \frac{H}{v} \right) \\ &\quad - \bar{E}_L M^l E_R \left(-\frac{\sin \alpha}{\cos \beta} \frac{h}{v} + \frac{\cos \alpha}{\cos \beta} \frac{H}{v} \right) + \text{H.c.} . \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

We have not written down the couplings of the CP -odd Higgs boson A to fermions because it does not couple to D and consequently A is irrelevant to our darkon relic-density study, not contributing to darkon annihilation.

To evaluate the darkon annihilation rate, we also need the couplings of h and H to the weak bosons $V = W^\pm, Z$. From the kinetic sector of the THDM, we have [16]

$$\mathcal{L}_{VV\mathcal{H}} = \left(\frac{2m_W^2}{v} W^{+\mu} W_\mu^- + \frac{m_Z^2}{v} Z^\mu Z_\mu \right) [h \sin(\beta - \alpha) + H \cos(\beta - \alpha)] . \quad (20)$$

B. Darkon-nucleon elastic cross-section in THDMII+D

Using the formulas given above, one can express the cross-section of the darkon-nucleon elastic scattering in the THDMII+D as

$$\sigma_{\text{el}} \simeq \frac{m_N^2 v^2}{\pi(m_D + m_N)^2} \left(\frac{\lambda_h g_{NNh}^{\text{THDM}}}{m_h^2} + \frac{\lambda_H g_{NNH}^{\text{THDM}}}{m_H^2} \right)^2 , \quad (21)$$

where, from Eq. (8), the nucleon coupling to $\mathcal{H} = h$ or H is

$$g_{NN\mathcal{H}}^{\text{THDM}} = (k_u^{\mathcal{H}} - k_d^{\mathcal{H}}) \frac{\sigma_{\pi N}}{2v} + k_d^{\mathcal{H}} \frac{m_N}{v} + \frac{4k_u^{\mathcal{H}} - 25k_d^{\mathcal{H}}}{27} \frac{m_B}{v} . \quad (22)$$

The parameters $k_q^{\mathcal{H}}$ are read off from Eq. (19) to be

$$k_u^h = \frac{\cos \alpha}{\sin \beta} , \quad k_d^h = -\frac{\sin \alpha}{\cos \beta} , \quad k_u^H = \frac{\sin \alpha}{\sin \beta} , \quad k_d^H = \frac{\cos \alpha}{\cos \beta} . \quad (23)$$

If both h and H contributed, the analysis would be complicated. For concreteness, in our numerical analysis we will neglect contributions from H by requiring λ_H to be very small or m_H very large. Under this assumption, we can see that, since $k_{u,d}^h$ are free parameters, the situation in the THDMII+D can be very different from that in the SM+D. Here it is possible for the terms proportional to $k_{u,d}^h$ in the Higgs-nucleon coupling g_{NNh}^{THDM} to cancel. From Eq. (22), the cancellation condition is

$$\frac{k_d^h}{k_u^h} = -\tan \alpha \tan \beta = \frac{27 \sigma_{\pi N} + 8 m_B}{27 \sigma_{\pi N} + 50 m_B - 54 m_N} . \quad (24)$$

Since m_B is related to $\sigma_{\pi N}$ by Eq. (A3) and since $\sigma_{\pi N}$ is not well determined, with values within the range $35 \text{ MeV} \lesssim \sigma_{\pi N} \lesssim 80 \text{ MeV}$ having been quoted in the literature [15, 17, 18], the value of k_d^h/k_u^h has a sizable uncertainty. Nevertheless, we have checked that the main conclusion of this section below does not change for this $\sigma_{\pi N}$ range. For definiteness, in the following we employ $\sigma_{\pi N} = 45 \text{ MeV}$ [15], as in Eq. (9), yielding

$$\frac{k_d^h}{k_u^h} \simeq -0.405 . \quad (25)$$

We have found that one can get the darkon-nucleon cross-section to be near the experimental bounds by allowing $\tan\alpha\tan\beta$ to deviate from the cancellation point, without violating the relic density constraint. For illustration, we choose $\tan\alpha\tan\beta = 0.45$ and consider two sets of $\tan\alpha$ and $\tan\beta$ values satisfying this choice: $(\tan\alpha, \tan\beta) = (0.45, 1)$ and $(\tan\alpha, \tan\beta) = (0.45/30, 30)$. We note that, since low values of $\tan\beta$ are disfavored for low values of the charged-Higgs mass m_{H^\pm} [19], we will assume a large m_{H^\pm} ($\gtrsim 250$ GeV). We also note that $\tan\beta = 1$ and 30 roughly span the range allowed by various experimental and theoretical constraints [19].

Since the relic density in this case is determined by the interaction of the darkon with h alone, the coupling λ_h can be extracted following the steps taken in Sec. II. We show the resulting values of λ_h in Fig. 5. With λ_h determined, we can calculate the darkon-nucleon elastic cross-section, which is now given by¹

$$\sigma_{\text{el}} = \frac{m_N^2 v^2}{\pi (m_D + m_N)^2} \left(\frac{\lambda_h g_{NNh}^{\text{THDM}}}{m_h^2} \right)^2. \quad (26)$$

In Fig. 6 we plot σ_{el} for our parameter choice above and $\lambda_h < 1$. We note that, as in the SM+D case, the dip of each of the $m_h = 120$ GeV curves in this figure at $m_D = 60$ GeV corresponds to the minimum of the denominator in Eq. (4) at $m_h = 2m_D$. In Fig. 6 we also plot the XENON10 and CDMS II upper limits, along with the expected sensitivities of a number of future experiments [11]. Evidently, there is parameter space in the THDMII+D that can escape the current experimental constraints. Future direct-search experiments can place more stringent constraints on the model.

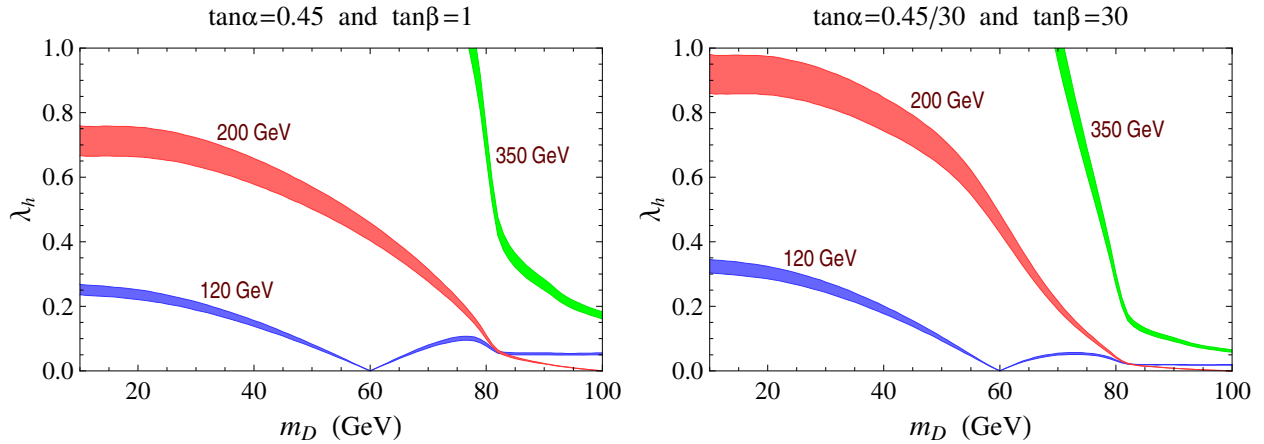


FIG. 5: Darkon-Higgs coupling λ_h in the THDMII+D as a function of darkon mass m_D for Higgs mass values $m_h = 120, 200, 350$ GeV and two cases with different $\tan\alpha$ and $\tan\beta$ values satisfying $\tan\alpha\tan\beta = 0.45$. Only regions corresponding to $\lambda_h < 1$ have been plotted.

¹ It is worth remarking that, although the α and β values chosen to make g_{NNh}^{THDM} sufficiently small may at the same time cause g_{NNH}^{THDM} to be enhanced, the contribution of H to σ_{el} in Eq. (21) can still be neglected, as λ_H remains a free parameter of the model. As Eq. (18) shows, $\lambda_{h,H}$ depend on the free parameters $\lambda_{1,2}$, and so fixing λ_h does not imply fixing λ_H . Consequently, the product $\lambda_H g_{NNH}^{\text{THDM}}$ can always be made as small as desired. In addition, as mentioned above, m_H can be taken to be very large to suppress the second term in Eq. (21) further.

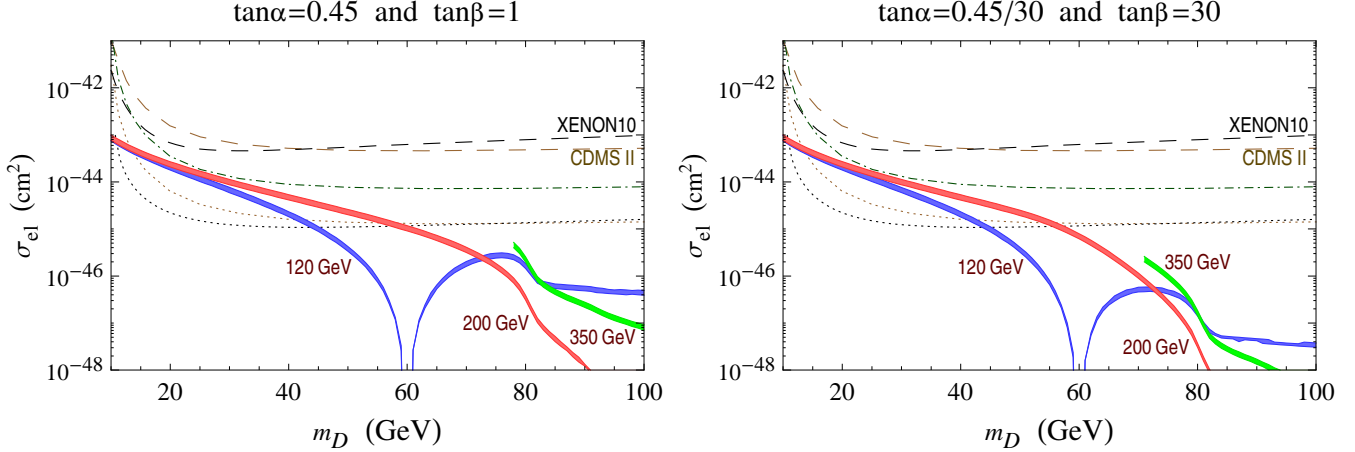


FIG. 6: Darkon-nucleon elastic cross-section σ_{el} in the THDMII+D as a function of darkon mass m_D for Higgs mass values $m_h = 120, 200, 350$ GeV and the two cases in Fig. 5, compared to the 90% C.L. upper limits from XENON10 (black dashed curve) and CDMS II (gray [brown] dashed curve), as well as projected sensitivities of SuperCDMS at Soudan (green dot-dashed curve), SuperCDMS at Snolab (gray [brown] dotted curve), and XENON100 (black dotted curve).

IV. DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The darkon model can have significant effects on collider physics. Since the darkon interacts primarily with Higgs bosons, its greatest impact is on the Higgs sector. In either the SM+D or the THDMII+D, the existence of the darkon can give rise to huge enhancement of the Higgs width via the additional process $h \rightarrow DD$ because the darkon-Higgs coupling can be sufficiently large, as can be seen from Fig. 3 or 5. In particular, our parameter choice above for the THDMII+D leads to the $h \rightarrow DD$ partial width and branching ratio shown in Figs. 7 and 8. We see that for small m_D values, the Higgs width is increased considerably and dominated by the $h \rightarrow DD$ mode, especially if $m_h < 2m_W$, in which case the Higgs partial width into SM particles is small. Since the darkon is stable, the darkon pairs produced in $h \rightarrow DD$ will be invisible, and so in this case the invisible branching fraction of h can be substantially bigger than its branching fraction to SM particles. For large m_D values, the $h \rightarrow DD$ contribution becomes small and the h decay is like that in the case without the darkon.

Although the increase of the invisible widths of Higgs bosons will obviously affect Higgs searches at the LHC [5, 7, 8], it will still be able to provide an environment for probing the darkon model. For a Higgs boson with a large invisible branching fraction ($> 60\%$) and a mass within the range $120 \text{ GeV} \lesssim m_h \lesssim 300 \text{ GeV}$, direct searches at the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment through the usual SM modes may be unfeasible with 30 fb^{-1} of integrated luminosity [8]. However, such a Higgs boson can be observed at ATLAS with the same integrated luminosity, via weak-boson fusion or Z -Higgstrahlung, by looking for missing energy from the decay [8, 20]. Considering one of our THDMII+D examples, with $\tan\alpha = 0.015$ and $\tan\beta = 30$, we find that h has SM-like couplings to the weak bosons and invisible branching ratios higher than 0.6 in much of the m_D range, as can be seen from Fig. 8, which serves to illustrate the testability of the darkon model at the LHC. Moreover, in the SM+D, if $m_h > 2m_Z$, say $m_h = 300 \text{ GeV}$, the total Higgs width can

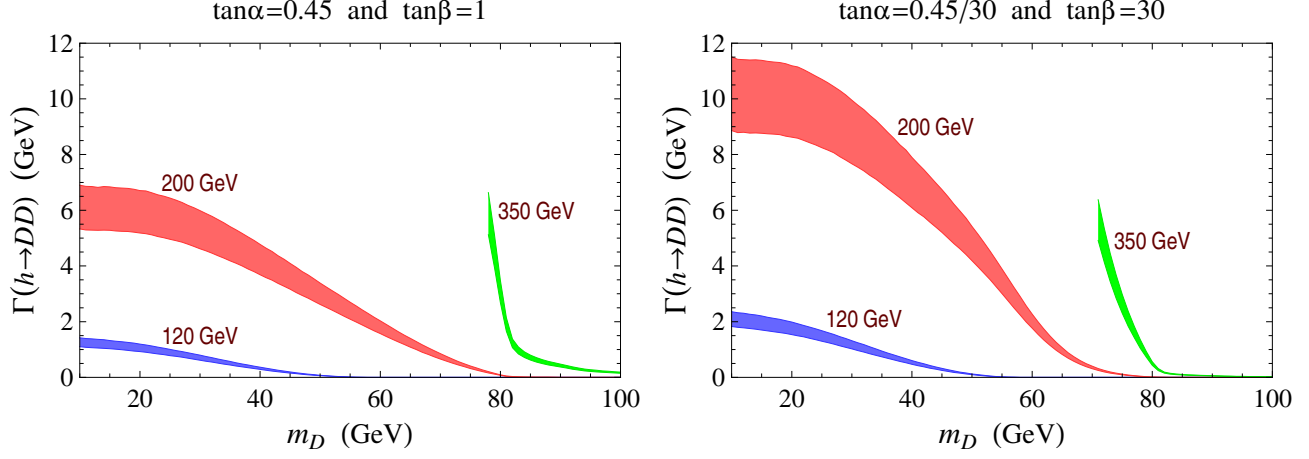


FIG. 7: Partial width of $h \rightarrow DD$ in the THDM II+D as a function of darkon mass m_D for Higgs mass values $m_h = 120, 200, 350$ GeV and the two cases in Fig. 5. Only regions corresponding to $\lambda_h < 1$ have been plotted.

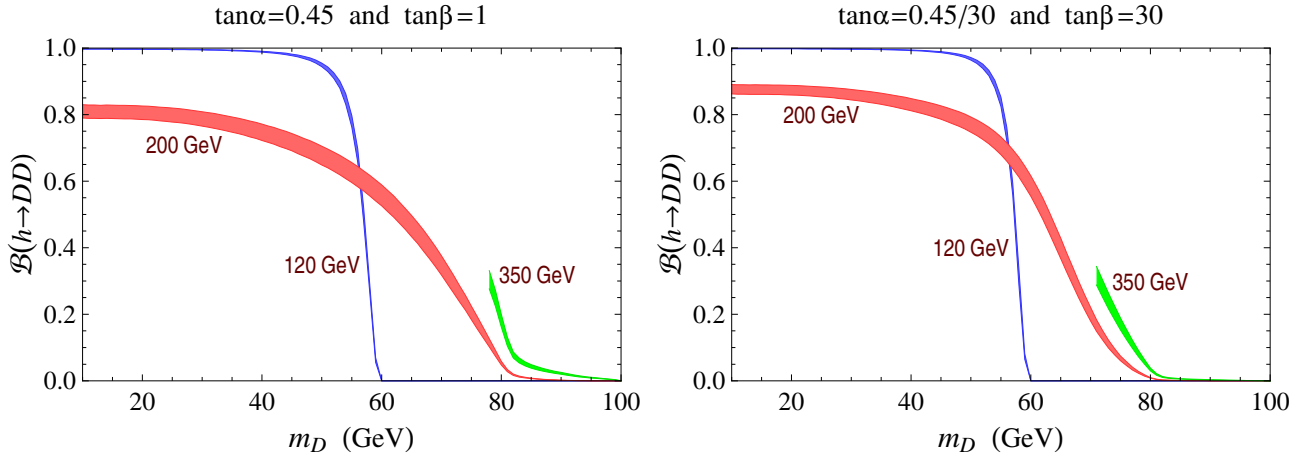


FIG. 8: Branching ratio of $h \rightarrow DD$ in the THDM II+D as a function of darkon mass m_D , corresponding to $\Gamma(h \rightarrow DD)$ in Fig. 7.

be measured with a precision of up to 10% at ATLAS with 300 fb^{-1} integrated luminosity [21], and then the darkon contribution can be inferred after a comparison with the SM prediction for the width.

In conclusion, we have studied the experimental constraints from XENON10 and CDMSII on the darkon model of dark matter. In the SM+D, a darkon with mass in the ranges of 10 GeV to (50, 70, 75) GeV for Higgs boson masses of (120, 200, 350) GeV is ruled out as a WIMP candidate by the experimental restrictions. By extending the SM+D to a two-Higgs-doublet model plus a darkon, the THDM II+D, the experimental limits can be circumvented due to suppression of the darkon-nucleon elastic cross-section at some values of $\tan \alpha \tan \beta$. Future DM search experiments can further constrain the parameter space of the model. Using the darkon-Higgs coupling extracted from the DM relic density, we have found that the total decay width of h in either the SM+D or the THDM II+D can be greatly enhanced by a large contribution from the invisible mode $h \rightarrow DD$.

The substantial increase of the invisible decay width of the Higgs boson would lead to a sizable reduction of its branching fraction to SM particles. Although this could significantly affect Higgs searches at the LHC, we expect that it will still be able to probe the darkon model.

Acknowledgments

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Note added. After this paper was accepted for publication, we became aware of a recent direct-search experiment by the TEXONO Collaboration [24] which reported an upper limit on the spin-independent WIMP-nucleon elastic cross section for WIMP-mass values below 10 GeV, to as low as 3 GeV. We have subsequently applied our analysis to darkon-mass values from 3 to 10 GeV and found that the two models we considered, the SM+D and the THDM II+D, satisfy the bounds from TEXONO. However, their upcoming ultralow energy germanium detector (ULEGe) experiment may be sensitive enough to place constraints on the models.

Appendix A: Derivation of Higgs-nucleon coupling

In the t -channel Higgs-mediated darkon-nucleon scattering, the energy exchanged is small compared to the nucleon mass. Therefore, we can use chiral perturbation theory at leading order to derive the Higgs-nucleon coupling.

The relevant Lagrangian is written down in terms of the lightest meson- and baryon-octet fields, collected into 3×3 matrices B and ξ . At leading order in the m_s expansion, the chiral strong Lagrangian can be written as [22]

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_s = & -m_B \langle \bar{B}B \rangle + b_D \langle \bar{B} \{M_+, B\} \rangle + b_F \langle \bar{B} [M_+, B] \rangle + b_0 \langle M_+ \rangle \langle \bar{B}B \rangle \\ & + \frac{1}{2} f^2 B_0 \langle M_+ \rangle + \cdots, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A1})$$

where only the relevant terms are shown, m_B is the baryon mass in the chiral limit, $\langle \cdots \rangle \equiv \text{Tr}(\cdots)$ in flavor-SU(3) space, f is the pion decay constant, $M_+ = \xi^\dagger M_q \xi^\dagger + \xi M_q^\dagger \xi$ with $M_q = \text{diag}(m_u, m_d, m_s)$, and $b_{D,F,0}$ and B_0 are free parameters which can be fixed from data. In the following, we will take the isospin-symmetric limit $m_u = m_d = \hat{m}$.

From (A1), one can derive the nucleon mass m_N and the pion-nucleon sigma term $\sigma_{\pi N}$,

$$\begin{aligned} m_N &= m_B - 2(b_D + b_F + 2b_0)\hat{m} - 2(b_D - b_F + b_0)m_s, \\ \sigma_{\pi N} &= \hat{m} \partial m_N / \partial \hat{m} = -2(b_D + b_F + 2b_0)\hat{m}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A2})$$

as well as expressions for the masses of the other hadrons (Σ, Ξ, K, π) in terms of $b_{D,F,0}$ and B_0 . Empirically, $\sigma_{\pi N}$ is not very precisely determined and hence will be a source of uncertainty in our calculation. For definiteness, we adopt $\sigma_{\pi N} = 45 \text{ MeV}$ [17]. From the expressions for the masses

and $\sigma_{\pi N}$, one can obtain

$$m_B = -\sigma_{\pi N} \frac{2m_K^2 + m_\pi^2}{2m_\pi^2} + \frac{(m_\Xi + m_\Sigma)(2m_K^2 - m_\pi^2) - 2m_N m_\pi^2}{4(m_K^2 - m_\pi^2)}, \quad (\text{A3})$$

where numerically m_K , m_π , m_Ξ , m_Σ , and m_N are isospin-averaged values.

We can now derive the light-quark contribution to $g_{NN\mathcal{H}}$ in Eq. (7). Since the terms containing M_q in Eq. (A1) are the chiral realization of the light-quark mass terms in the quark Lagrangian $\mathcal{L}_q = -m_u \bar{u}u - m_d \bar{d}d - m_s \bar{s}s + \dots$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle N | k_u m_u \bar{u}u + k_d m_d \bar{d}d + k_s m_s \bar{s}s | N \rangle &= -\langle N | k_u m_u \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_s}{\partial m_u} + k_d m_d \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_s}{\partial m_d} + k_s m_s \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_s}{\partial m_s} | N \rangle \\ &= \left[\frac{1}{2}(k_u - k_d) \sigma_{\pi N} + k_d (m_N - m_B) \right] \bar{N}N \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A4})$$

using Eq. (A2), where the last line has been obtained by averaging over the p and n matrix elements.

For the heavy-quark contribution to $g_{NN\mathcal{H}}$, we use the relation [14]

$$m_Q \bar{Q}Q = -\frac{2}{3} \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} G_{a\mu\nu} G_a^{\mu\nu} \quad (\text{A5})$$

at leading order in the heavy quark expansion, for $Q = c, b$, or t , and the nucleon matrix element of the trace of the energy-momentum tensor [23]

$$m_N \bar{N}N = \langle N | \theta_\mu^\mu | N \rangle = \langle N | m_u \bar{u}u + m_d \bar{d}d + m_s \bar{s}s - \frac{9\alpha_s}{8\pi} G_{a\mu\nu} G_a^{\mu\nu} | N \rangle, \quad (\text{A6})$$

where $G_a^{\mu\nu}$ is the field strength tensor of the gluons. Setting $k_u = k_d = 1$ in Eq. (A4) and comparing it with Eq. (A6), we conclude that

$$\langle N | m_Q \bar{Q}Q | N \rangle = -\frac{2}{27} \langle N | \frac{9\alpha_s}{8\pi} G_{a\mu\nu} G_a^{\mu\nu} | N \rangle = \frac{2}{27} m_B \bar{N}N. \quad (\text{A7})$$

It follows that

$$\langle N | k_u m_c \bar{c}c + k_d m_b \bar{b}b + k_t m_t \bar{t}t | N \rangle = \frac{2}{27} (2k_u + k_d) m_B \bar{N}N. \quad (\text{A8})$$

Combining Eqs. (A4) and (A8), we finally find

$$g_{NN\mathcal{H}} = (k_u - k_d) \frac{\sigma_{\pi N}}{2v} + k_d \frac{m_N}{v} + \frac{4k_u - 25k_d}{27} \frac{m_B}{v}. \quad (\text{A9})$$

We remark that, for k_u and k_d being comparable in size, $g_{pp\mathcal{H}}$ and $g_{nn\mathcal{H}}$ differ from each other and from the isospin-averaged $g_{NN\mathcal{H}}$ above by at most a few percent.

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